Jenner & Block was one of 54 leading US law firms that participated in the inaugural Women in Law Hackathon, a “Shark Tank”-style pitch competition aimed at generating innovative ideas to close the gender gap in law firms. Partner Reid J. Schar, co-chair of the firm’s White Collar Defense and Investigations Practice, served as Jenner & Block’s representative to the program. The event was sponsored by Stanford Law School, Diversity Lab and Bloomberg Law.

Nine Hackathon teams – each comprising six law firm partners from across the United States, two talent/diversity thought leaders and a Stanford law student – began working together in January, meeting virtually, twice a month, to devise initiatives to retain and advance experienced women lawyers in law firms. On June 24, the teams presented their ideas to a panel of high-profile judges.

Team 9 – Jenner & Block’s team – took home the first place prize for its proposal of a gender-neutral compensation model titled SMART (Solutions to Measure, Advance and Reward Talent) that incorporates each firm’s values and culture, taking into account, in addition to billable hours and business generation, activities related to what women in law firms tend to spend more time on – advancing diversity, committee work, training, pro bono, etc. A SMART App and Dashboard to help track progress towards goals, developed as part of the proposal, was previewed during the Hackathon.

Bloomberg Law provided prize money for the top three teams to donate to their nonprofit of choice that advances women in the legal profession. The SMART team donated its $10,000 first-place prize to Ms. JD, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to the success of aspiring and early career women lawyers.

Partner Susan J. Kohlmann was named office managing partner of the firm’s New York office, effective January 1, 2016. Susan, a highly experienced litigator in the Content, Media & Entertainment Practice, is co-chair of the firm’s Trademark, Advertising and Unfair Competition Practice, chair of the firm’s Diversity & Inclusion Committee and a member of Jenner & Block’s governing Policy Committee.

Susan is a long-standing leader in promoting gender diversity in the legal profession. She has served on the New York City Bar Association Committee to Enhance Diversity and, as chair of its Committee on Women in the Profession, was instrumental in establishing the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Distinguished Lecture on Women and the Law series. Susan also chaired the task force that helped establish the NYCBA Office for Diversity and drafted the bar association’s “Statement of Diversity Principles,” and she is a past board member of Legal Momentum, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing the rights of women through law and public policy.

Recognized by Chambers, USA, for her broad practice in trademark and copyright litigation, Susan also has an active pro bono practice. In 2015, she was named a “Top Pro Bono Advocate” by Legal Services NYC, the largest civil legal services provider in the United States. Last year, she was a key member of a firm team that helped achieve an important win for Vietnam veterans who were less-than-honorably discharged for conduct directly related to – but not recognized at the time as – Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. In part, the attention caused by filing a class action lawsuit resulted in a major about-face by the US Defense Department, which now requires post-war PTSD diagnoses to be considered in evaluating veterans’ petitions for discharge upgrades.

Susan also serves as Vice Chair of Legal Services NYC, on the board of New York Lawyers for the Public Interest as Litigation and Program Chair and on the Board of the City Bar Justice Center.
INSIDEcounsel Profiles Three Women Leaders of Privacy and Information Governance Practice

Partners Mary Ellen Callahan and Nancy C. Libin and Special Counsel Heidi L. Wachs were featured in a profile in the April 19, 2016 issue of InsideCounsel. The article describes each woman’s impact on the Privacy and Information Governance Practice and the uniqueness of having three former chief privacy officers as outside counsel. Mary Ellen, chief privacy officer for the US Department of Homeland Security from 2009 to 2012, founded and chairs the “PIG” Practice and advises clients on privacy- and cybersecurity-related matters. Nancy, former chief privacy and civil liberties officer at the Justice Department, focuses on consumer protection and privacy, advising technology companies on the privacy implications of the collection and use of data, including issues surrounding the growing “Internet of Things.” Heidi, who served as Georgetown University’s first chief privacy officer and director of IT policy for five years, focuses on privacy, breach response and data security compliance.

Firm Welcomes OnRamp Fellows

A year ago, Jenner & Block was one of the first US law firms to participate in the OnRamp Fellowship program, helping experienced women lawyers re-enter the profession after a career break. The firm’s first OnRamp Fellow – Irene Ten Cate – is now a full-time associate in the New York office.

Our newest OnRamp Fellows are Lynn S. Fradkin, in the Chicago office’s Real Estate group, and Catherine L. Doyle, a litigation Fellow in Chicago. Lynn began her legal career at the firm now known as Thompson Coburn and has held positions at Motorola Solutions, Arthur Andersen, Underwriters Laboratories and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. As one of her first projects at Jenner & Block, Lynn helped close a complex transaction involving the sale of several parcels of property near Chicago’s Wrigley Field that will be developed with a parking garage, high-end retail and an apartment building. Cathy, who focuses on commercial complex litigation, started her legal career as a litigation associate with Mayer Brown and Foley & Lardner. During her hiatus from law firm practice, she traveled extensively and lived in Morocco for a year, and later managed large-scale eDiscovery reviews as an analyst for Huron Consulting Group.

Both women describe the OnRamp experience, which also provides Fellows with career coaching, continuing legal education and training in the “nuts and bolts” of legal practice, as a “win-win” for the firm and for them.

Mercedes Hill: Leadership Greater Chicago 2016 Fellow

Partner Mercedes M. Hill was named a 2016 Fellow Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow, a program to cultivate a diverse group of leaders for the area. During the intensive 10-month program, Fellows meet with civic and community leaders and those affected by issues impacting the region, from the economy to housing, education, crime, diversity and healthcare. Mercedes has been key in a number of our largest transactions, including GM’s historic “Section 363” sale of assets in connection with its Chapter 11 reorganization and the $1.3 billion and $440 million carve-outs of Archer Daniels Midland’s global cocoa and chocolate businesses. Most recently, she led a team that represented Schneider Electric SE in the sale of its global transportation business.

Women Attorneys Deliver Outstanding Results for Clients

Firm Wins $940 Million Trade Secrets Verdict

Partners Julie A. Shepard and Kelly M. Morrison and Associates AnnaMarie A. Van Hoesen, Mara R. Ludmer, Kate T. Spelman and Kathleen J. Covarrubias were members of a firm team that won a $940 million verdict – one of the largest trade secrets verdicts in US history and perhaps the largest verdict of any kind in Wisconsin – for Epic Systems, a leading US health care software company, in a corporate espionage case against Tata Consultancy Services.

AMunson, DECell Win Presidential Commutation for Pro Bono Client Jesse Webster

After seven years of representing pro bono client Jesse Webster, Partner Jessica Ring Amunson, assisted by Associate Caroline M. DeCell, secured presidential clemency for him. Webster was released from prison after serving 20 years of a life sentence on charges related to conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

First-Year Associate, While a Law Student, Wins Clemency for Client

As a result of first-year Associate Elpitha Betondo’s successful advocacy while a 3L at the University of Chicago Law School, President Obama commuted her client’s life sentence for conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Elpitha drafted the executive summary that was submitted to the president. She also presented her client’s story to Illinois Senator Richard Durbin during his visit to the law school’s Federal Criminal Justice Clinic.

FEDERAL TRIAL AND APPELLATE WINS FOR Olin CORPORATION

Partner Sara Tonnies Horton was a key member of both the trial and appellate teams that successfully represented Olin Corporation in its dispute with Continental Casualty Co over insurance coverage related to an accident and subsequent several-month shutdown of Olin’s chlor alkali chemical plant in Nevada. Associates Jennifer T. Beach and Brienne M. Letourneau also assisted. The Ninth Circuit appeal was won by the firm in March 2016.

Rozycki, Campbell Represent Merge Healthcare in $1 Billion Sale to IBM

Labor and Employment Practice Chair Caria J. Rozycki and Real Estate Associate Penelope P. Campbell were key members of the team that represented Chicago-based medical imaging company Merge Healthcare Inc. in its $1 billion sale to IBM. The deal closed in October 2015.
• Partner Gail H. Morse, co-chair of the firm’s LGBT Forum and long-time advocate for advancing LGBT civil rights in Chicago, was among 11 individuals inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in November 2015. Among her many efforts to give back to the LGBT community, Gail has provided pro bono counsel to nearly every established LGBT nonprofit in Chicago.

• Partner Terri L. Mascherin, a nationally recognized trial lawyer and co-chair of the firm’s Professional Responsibility Practice, was named a “Woman of Achievement” by the Greater Chicago/Upper Midwest Regional Chapter of the Anti-Defamation League. Terri was honored for her pro bono work on death penalty issues and on behalf of the wrongfully convicted or accused.

• Partner Julie A. Shepard was named one of California’s “top 50 entertainment lawyers” by the Daily Journal. Julie’s profile highlighted her representation of FX Networks in a dispute against Dish Network over claims that Dish violated FX’s exclusive right to premiere movies on TV.

• Privacy and Information Governance Practice Chair Mary Ellen Callahan, Environmental and Workplace Health & Safety Law Practice Chair E. Lynn Grayson, and Climate and Clean Technology Law Practice Co-Chair Gabrielle Sigel were named “Trailblazers” by The National Law Journal. Lynn was also featured on the cover of the 2016 Illinois Super Lawyers Magazine and profiled in the magazine and recently honored by Euromoney Legal Media Group Americas with its “Best in Environment” award, as the United States’ top female lawyer in environmental law.

• Partner Melissa M. Root was selected as an “Emerging Leader” in the legal advisor category by The M&A Advisor, for her notable accomplishments in business and in service to the community.

• Partner Elizabeth A. Edmondson was named a “Rising Star” by The New York Law Journal. A founder and board member of the New York Chapter of the Coalition of Women’s Initiatives in Law, Elizabeth recently discussed best practices for recruiting, retaining and advancing women in their law careers at the Forum on Reinvigorating the Women’s Affinity Resources Discussion.

• Associate Hillary E. August was honored with an Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service from the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. She was nominated for the award by District Judge Matthew Kennelly for outstanding representation of a client in a civil violation-of-due-process lawsuit against the Village of East Dundee and one of its police officers.

EVENTS

New York Office Holds Networking Event
On April 7, the firm held its inaugural New York Women’s Event at the Brandy Library in Tribeca. More than 50 Jenner & Block lawyers and current and prospective clients from across numerous industries came together for a wonderful evening of cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and conversation.

Chicago Office Hosts WILEF Event
On April 6, the firm’s Chicago office hosted WILEF’s (Women in Law Empowerment Forum) “Coaching and Cocktails” event. Partner Barbara R. Grayson, a member of the WILEF Global Advisory Board, gave welcome remarks. Panelists from Kirkland & Ellis, K&L Gates, Great on the Job and WOMN LLC addressed such topics as professional happiness, readiness to be promoted to partner, getting clients, striking the right balance between one’s biological clock and a desire to advance, and career goals.

Firm Teams With EY for Women’s Roundtable
Jenner & Block’s Women’s Forum teamed up with EY’s Professional Women’s Network to host a Networking Roundtable Discussion and Reception. The program featured small group discussions about the role of mentorship in career advancement; bringing one’s authentic self to the workplace; and building networking skills and enabling connections between client peers and senior executive leaders. Partner Erin R. Schrantz coordinated the event.

BWLA, Firm Co-Host Discussion on LGBT Workplace Rights
Associate Precious S. Jacobs, co-chair of the Roundtable Subcommittee of the Black Women Lawyers Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., planned a program co-hosted by BWLA and Jenner & Block, discussing current laws and recent court decisions concerning LGBT rights in the workplace.

MEET OUR NEW WOMEN LATERAL PARTNERS AND SPECIAL COUNSEL
Since November 2015, the firm has added seven new women lateral partners and two special counsel.

PARTNERS
BARBARA GRAYSON, Co-Chair, Private Wealth Practice
GINA REIF ILARDI, Content, Media & Entertainment
H. DEBRA LEVIN, Co-Chair, Private Wealth Practice
NANCY C. LIBIN, Privacy and Information Governance; Communications, Internet & Technology
GAYLE E. LITTLETON, White Collar Defense and Investigations
OLGA A. LOY, Private Equity; Investment Funds and SBIC Formation; Mergers & Acquisitions; Tax; Private Wealth
KIRSTEN HICKS SPIRA, Complex Commercial Litigation; Professional Responsibility

SPECIAL COUNSEL
EMILY M. LOEB, Government Controversies and Public Policy Litigation; White Collar Defense and Investigations
HEIDI L. WACHS, Privacy & Information Governance; Cybersecurity; Education
Jenner & Block hosted a special Women’s Bar Association of Illinois (WBAI) membership appreciation and recognition event, held in conjunction with the graduation of the WBAI’s inaugural Leadership Institute Program. During the event, the firm was honored with the WBAI’s 2015-2016 Best Supporting Law Firm Award. Partner E. Lynn Grayson received the WBAI’s Leadership Recognition Award for her service as co-chair of the 2015-16 Leadership Institute Committee and the appreciation event. Associate Katharine R. Ciliberti was acknowledged for her service as co-chair of the WBAI Young Lawyers Programming Committee. Partner Keri Holleb Hotaling, co-chair of the firm’s Women’s Forum, welcomed guests and accepted the firm’s award.

FIRM RECEIVES GOLD STANDARD CERTIFICATION BY THE WOMEN IN LAW EMPOWERMENT FORUM

Jenner & Block is one of only 31 law firms across the United States to receive 2016 “Gold Standard” certification by the Women in Law Empowerment Forum (WILEF). WILEF is the leading forum for the advancement of women in law; its annual Gold Standard certification is presented to large law firms that meet the organization’s exacting standards for women in positions of power. In this, the sixth year of the recognition, the certification became even more difficult to obtain as WILEF raised the bar on some criteria that firms were required to meet to demonstrate their commitment to promoting and fairly compensating women. These criteria include having women as a meaningful percentage of equity partners, partners in high leadership positions and among most highly compensated equity partners.

RECOGNITIONS

The Best Lawyers in America
Barbara R. Grayson, Trusts and Estates
E. Lynn Grayson, Environmental Law; Natural Resources Law
Terri L. Mascherin, Commercial Litigation
Gabrielle Sigel, Environmental Law
Catherine L. Steege, Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights /Insolvency and Reorganization Law; Litigation - Bankruptcy
Barbara S. Steiner, Commercial Litigation

Chambers USA
Mary Ellen Callahan, Privacy & Data Security (Nationwide);
Carissa Coze, Corporate M&A (California)
E. Lynn Grayson, Environment: Mainly Transactional (Illinois) (Band 1)
Lindsay C. Harrison, Leisure & Hospitality (Nationwide)
Susan J. Kohlmann, Intellectual Property: Trademark & Copyright (New York)
Terri L. Mascherin, Litigation: General Commercial (Illinois)
Gabrielle Sigel, Environment: Litigation (Illinois)
Catherine L. Steege, Bankruptcy/Restructuring (Illinois)

Illinois Super Lawyers
Debbie L. Berman, Business Litigation
E. Lynn Grayson, Environmental (Top 50 Women)
Terri L. Mascherin, Business Litigation (Top 100, Top 50 Women)
Gail H. Morse, Tax
Suzanne J. Prysak, Business Litigation
Carla J. Rozycki, Employment and Labor
Gabrielle Sigel, Environmental Litigation
Catherine L. Steege, Bankruptcy (Top 100, Top 50 Women)
Barbara S. Steiner, Business Litigation (Top 50 Women)

Rising Stars

New York-Metro Super Lawyers
Katya Jestin, Criminal Defense: White Collar
Susan J. Kohlmann, Intellectual Property Litigation; Civil Litigation: Defense, Entertainment & Sports

Rising Stars
Partner: Elizabeth A. Edmondson; Associates: Laura P. MacDonald, Alison I. Stein

Southern California Super Lawyers

Rising Stars
Partner: Kelly M. Morrison; Associates: Lisa Kohn, Kate T. Spellman

Washington DC Super Lawyers

Rising Stars
Partner: Jan A. Larson

Who’s Who Legal
E. Lynn Grayson, Environment
Catherine L. Steege, Insolvency & Restructuring

Leading Lawyers Network Magazine – Women’s Edition
Debbie L. Berman, Advertising & Media Law; Arts, Entertainment & Sports Law; Civil Rights/Constitutional Law
E. Lynn Grayson, Environmental Law (Top 10 Women)
H. Debra Levin, Trust, Will & Estate Planning Law
Terri L. Mascherin, Commercial Litigation; Federal Regulatory Law; Telecommunications Law
Gail H. Morse, Tax Law: Business
Carla J. Rozycki, Employment Law; Management
Gabrielle Sigel, Environmental Law; Insurance, Insurance Coverage & Reinsurance Law; Toxic Torts Defense Law (Top 100 Women)
Catherine L. Steege, Bankruptcy & Workout Law: Commercial
Barbara S. Steiner, Antitrust Law; Commercial Litigation (Top 100 Women)

Emerging Lawyers